BETTER HANDLING TECHNIQUES FOR HAY NEEDED, SMITH SAYS

Farmers have made great strides in the use of machinery for producing and harvesting hay, but they lag in the efficient use of machinery for handling and feeding the crop, says Easley S. Smith, assistant agricultural engineer at VPI.

He points out that in the past 20 years, the cost of farm labor has advanced about twice as fast as the cost of farm machinery. Consequently more thought and planning should be given to reducing chore labor. Mechanized handling of hay could reduce the daily farm chores on many farms.

Where possible, equipment should be adaptable to more than one material. For example, a conveyor could handle both hay and silage. It is also important for equipment to fit into a coordinated system of handling all materials for a given operation. Unfortunately this often requires special buildings, or buildings different from those available on a given farm. The location and arrangement of buildings also is important when considering equipment for handling materials.

The use of automatic tie, pick-up balers has done much to reduce the labor needed for harvesting hay. Now several manufacturers are spending a considerable amount on the development of improved bale-handling systems. They are trying to make hay harvest as near a one-man operation as is possible, through improved methods of loading, hauling, and conveying baled hay. In some cases, a smaller bale has been adapted to simplify the problems of handling and storing. This small bale is ejected from the baler directly into a wagon. The wagon of baled hay is then unloaded with a wagon unloader into an elevator hopper and from there the hay is elevated and conveyed into storage.

But there are still certain feeding problems, requiring considerable amount of labor, Smith says.

Wider use of chopped hay may be desirable on many farms where various types of feed conveyors are used or where self-feeding is practical.

Much thought is being given to pelleting or waferising hay to make it a free-flowing material. This shows great promise, Smith says. Hay pellets or wafers can be stored in much less space than baled hay, would be easier to transport, and could be conveyed with the same or similar equipment to that now being used for small grain or ear corn. It would greatly simplify conveying and feeding problems, and would reduce the amount of labor needed.

The present available machinery for pelleting or wafering hay is rather bulky, heavy, expensive, and requires a lot of power, but it has much to offer if these disadvantages can be overcome.

Smith recommends that much thought and planning be given to handling and feeding of hay on dairy and beef cattle farms. In some cases, farmers are finding that they can well afford to feed more silage and less hay because of reduced costs in producing and in handling the same amount of feed.

Idiosyncrasy

A man buyer will pay $2 for a $1 article if he wants it badly enough. A woman buyer will pay $2 for a $2 item whether she awnts it or not. —The Seagull, Ogden, Utah.

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Rush Welcome FFA Shop J

Mr. Grant Rush, principal of Appomattox High School welcomed some fifty F. F. A. boys to Appomattox for their annual shop judging contest last Wednesday. The William Campbell High School Naruna F. F. A. Shop Judging Team placed first in the contest, with 1365 points. Rustburg, with 1322 points placed second, and Appomattox came in third with 1297 points.

Jack Tibbs, of the Appomattox Chapter, placed second among individual scorers. Dennis Torrence, of Appomattox tied for fourth high scorer. High scores was Charles Farris, of Rustburg, with Edward Harper, of William Campbell, coming in third.

The Appomattox first team was composed of: Jack Tibbs, Dennis Torrence, and Laverne Garrett. Appomattox's alternate team was Myron Richardson, Billy Slagle, and Larry Torrence. The local team placed first among the alternate teams.

Shop judging is a Future Farmer of America activity designed to create interest in better workmanship, and planning in farm mechanics. Wednesday's contest included: identifying tools, estimating bill of materials from a working plan, judging wooden saw horses, judging farm mmachinery leveling jacks, judging reconditioned plow shares, and judging farm metal gates.

Jack Tibbs, Appomattox, president of the four-county Hub F. F. A. Federation, served as chairman of the contest. Local arrangements were made by E. N. Ashworth, W. L. Motley, and H. B. Pack, instructors of vocational agriculture at Appomattox High School. Official placings of the classes were made by J. A. Crews and W. C. Dudley of the area vocational agriculture office.

POULTRY CONSUMPTION PRODUCTION TO STAY UP

Use of poultry products will likely remain at a high level during the next year, and may even surpass the record 1958 level, predict agricultural economists at VPI. At the same time, production will increase, and farm prices of poultry may go down correspondingly.

The economists say the large, efficient producer will continue to make a profit during the next year, but the small, inefficient producer will feed the squeeze more than ever before.

As for specific products — the economists say egg prices will probably average slightly below those of 1958 because of the larger supply of local eggs in Virginia, and increased competition from out-of-state eggs. The egg industry in Virginia is rapidly changing from a farm flock to a commercial flock basis. Egg production per layer will increase sharply.

In broilers, some small producers may go out of business, but the loss will be more than offset by other small growers increasing the size of operations. Virginia will probably increase broiler production in 1959 more than in 1958. Farm prices of broilers will be lower if the indicated production increase occurs. Demand will likely be tending to produce higher prices. Prices will be lower, but not materially reduced.

With a drop in broiler number, processors will be able and more efficient. The feed dealer service a 3,000,000-to service a 10,000,000 feed cannot be as to many small dealers be less willing to truck-load flats for efficiency in the feed dealer has been set at the the poultry industry. Closer coopera- stages of the more evident more per unit of feed will be "hooked" fore, the chick more. With more feed price" gravitate The trend is pro will more toward ed market con- nus a pre-determ- rental. Growers interested in payments that a tilizer lire or chan

TRAGIC PLA

Chicago.— Mrs was forced to a her fourth grade Lady of the Angels school in the north 1st, because she At noon the by her mother, Mrs she wanted to p afternoon, Mrs. er granted permi

Margaret was who perished i swept the school

MOVING WALK

London.— British sidewalk — a 180 track "travelator" to link two platfo of England station's financial district announcement.

Ten per cent h cast for 1959.

Cuban economy rebel blocade.

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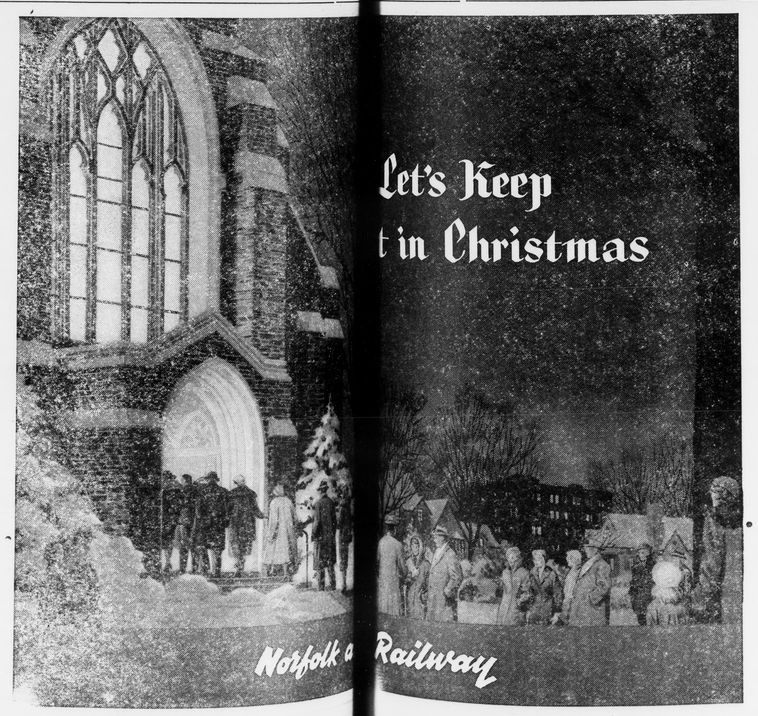

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ncrease would be: n two steps — $1.20 50 cents on April 1.

Alleval

ation will soon of- ensive plan, includ- incentive, to en- e investment abroad. disclosed at hear- Subcommittee on Policy of the Ways Committee by Henry Assistant Secretary of

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Bennett, Under Secre- Interior, says that the require advertising e issuance of such where the Indian granted permission is lease might be ne-

such leases could be without any advertising.

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of Defense Neil H. Mc- s on record as say- "highly skeptical" a- ssibility that the Soviet ches the world's first ed airplane.

that the Soviet Un- s a slight lead" over States in the develop- atomic plane, but de- would be "a surprise h a place had been air.

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FEED PRICES BIG FACTOR IN BEEF CATTLE OUTLOOK

An abundance of feed, both range and grain, is having such a strong impact on the beef cattle business that it constitutes the biggest factor in beef outlook for 1959 and beyond, says R. O. Russell, assistant agricultural economist at VPI.

Most of all, the abundance of cheap feed is creating a changed set of relationships within the cattle enterprise, Russell says. It is giving a tremendous boost to feeding, and it is lifting feeder cattle and calf prices to an unusually high relationship to prices of fed cattle. It is contributing to a strong competitive feeder demand for heifers and heifer calves, which is preventing as many as usual from going into the cow herd.

Feed prices will continue to be a major factor in the total livestock picture for years to come, Russell says. Not only are feed crops and their prices down now, but prices are almost certain to remain relatively low as supports are reduced.

Producer approval of the new corn program for 1959 probably indicates expanded corn acreage for next year. This increased corn acreage and, possibly a higher total yield, plus lower support prices might encourage more livestock feeding. A continued strong feeder market, and a relatively weak fed market, may be in the picture, Russell says.

TRYING TIMES

Niles, Mich.— Life has been trying recently for 5-year-old George Runnels and his mother.

George fell from a tree and broke an arm. Then he fell out of bed and cut his head. A fall down a flight of stairs resulted in a lost tooth, and, when George dropped a knife, he cut a toe.

His mother bought him a new hat to cheer him. George wore it to kindergarten — and the hat disappeared.

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About The Home

By Frances Dell

Do you have a young artist in your home with a tremendous drive to decorate your walls with crayon drawings? Many of us do, and we spend a lot of time cleaning off the result of their work or keeping a watchful eye out to prevent the little dear from doing the coloring in the first place.

If unwanted artwork or just the everyday finger traffic is a problem in your home, you will be happy to learn about a new wax covering that is said to be "practically stain proof."

Soap and water will remove most stains from the new cloth wall covering. Grease stains will come off with a bit of rubbing with a soft cloth and a bit of cleaner. The harder-to-remove marks will come off by applying naptha to the surface with a soft cloth and cleaning.

The product is called, "Fabrique," and is composed of vinyl impregnated fibers. There are endless designs for rooms, dens, kitchens and bathrooms.

The covering can be applied to almost any surface, sand - finished or textured-painted surfaces. It is installed by using either a wheat or cellulose paste.

There is also a wooden panelling on the market that has a prefinished coating that is said to be "family-proof." It will withstand lipstick, crayon, and watercolor drawings. It takes only a bit of soap and water and the panelling is as good as new.

This pre-finished panelling will not mark or dent easily and can be had in a choice of woods.

First Person Singular

"A baby is self-centered and concerned solely with his own comfort and satisfaction," says a psychologist. Maybe that's what they mean when they say most of us never forget the things we learn in childhood. —Sioux Center News.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20.
Devotional Reading: Luke 1:67-79.

Joy

Lesson for December 21, 1958

A MAGAZINE which advertires expensive things — cufflinks for $100 and over, cute little earrings for $500, mens shirts for $15 each—carried once a full-page advertisement with exactly eight words besides the manufacturer's name. It read: "JOY—the most costly perfume in the world."

Dr. Foreman

As an ad for perfume, that was obviously silly. It would appeal only to the kind of person who does not ask, "How good is this?" but "how expensive is it?" You do not raise the quality of your merchandise merely by raising the price.

Nevertheless, as a parable, or a starting-point for meditation, that is worth several minutes' serious thought.

Joy Is Life's Perfume

Perfumery is at the same time one of the most useless and yet most popular things sold. How many thousand gallons of it, will be sold for Christmas presents no one knows. And yet what good is it? A very practical-minded character might ask. All it does is to smell good. Ah, but that is just the point. Let the reader think back over the happiest moments of his or her life. Isn't it true that some sort of fragrance pervades each happy memory? The mint in Grandmother's back yard, the turkey at Trankagving, the smell of the Christmas tree, and the spring lilacs, and the perfume she wore the night she said "Yes." An odorless world would be a dull world. It's the pervasive and haunting fragrance of life that lift it out of the commonplace.

So with joy. Unlike perfume, it has no market value; but like perfume, its usefulness is mainly indirect. As there are cheap and vulgar perfumes, so there are cheap and vulgar joys. But there are rare and exquisite joys too. The same situation, the same relationship, the same duty, the "same old story" can be for one person a drudgery and for another a delight, because one person lacks the joy the other has. Just as literal odors make past moments memorable, so joy makes life's best moments memorable.

Fragrance of Christmas ●

Christmas is a time of joyous fragrances; but if they are all for the body and none for the soul, we have missed the true fragrance of Christmas. There is a word in the Greek New Testament which, the first time it is used (John 12:3) means literally fragrance — the odor of the precious ointment which Mary poured on Jesus. In other times it is used figuratively to mean the "fragrance" of the Christian life. This and another word (II Cor. 2:15, Rsv. 5:2, 16, 18) suggest that the Christian life is more than correct, it is lovely. Beauty is innovova with Christianity. The perfume of joy comes to us in the song of the angels, in the song of Mary, in the adoration of the shepherds. Wherever Christ has come, it is as if sour and horrible odors had been replaced by fragrances from beside the River of Life. What are the high days the church celebrates? They are called, and they are, "feasts" or festivals. Christmas and Easter are seasons of joy; not reckless devil-may-care pleasure, which is quite another thing, but joy that links earth to heaven.

Good News of a Great Joy

How stupid and twisted some definitions of religion seem, in the light of the Christmas story! You may detect at least some of the counterfeits passing for Christianity by this, that they are joyless, they are without fragrance. An enemy of Christianity once defined religion as a sum of scruples—in other words, a mess of Donts." A would-be friend of Christianity defined this religion as "God's attack on man." We should take our cue from the joyous angels, not from such gloomy scholars. Did the angels sing, "You'd better be afraid —we have a whole new list of Donts!" Did the First Angel shout in a voice of doom: "I come to announce God's attack on man!"—? Christmas is the word of freedom to men in prison, Christmas is the word of joy to a world in sorrow, the coming of a Rescuer to a world that was lost.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

Appomattox is a growing town.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Why is lightning seldom heard during the mid-winter months?

Lightning is an electrical discharge. It is a child of turbulent, building clouds — most often the thunderhead.

Winter clouds are usually of the stratus variety, from the north, and they seldom produce lightning. They do not usually contain high-velocity updrafts and downdrafts, which produce a rapid transfer of electrically charged particles.

It is often said that the first lightning storm of spring is the true herald of the season and this is sometimes true. It means that warm weather clouds have formed and passed over, or nearby.

'NEW' LOOK

San Quentin, Calif.- Selected inmates at the well-known San Quentin Prison will be allowed to meet their wives in a "living-room atmosphere" in an experiment on rehabilitation.

The meetings will be held twice monthly on a trial basis for three months, authorities said. Prisoners and their wives will be permitted to sit together and talk.

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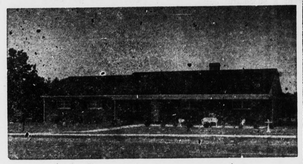

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